



RegionalLinks

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A BenefitsTalk Publication

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE E-NEWSLETTER November 2012

Monthly Newsletter from the Board of Pensions

Benefits Connect Tip:

Church treasurers and business administrators can submit salary changes online through Benefits Connect.

Church treasurers and business administrators* can use Benefits Connect to securely submit, confirm, and change their members' salary information. They can also submit service changes and terminations, review invoices from the past six months, and review their organizations' contact information.

To register as an organization's authorized Web representative, church treasurers and business administrators must select that role in step 1 of the [registration process](#) and then complete the rest of the registration information, including establishing a user ID and password.

**Churches and employing organizations whose billing address is in the United States and are currently receiving a monthly invoice from the Board can have one authorized Web representative.*

Healthcare Committee Recommends to Board of Directors New Medical Dues Model for Benefits Plan

During the fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the Board of Pensions, the [Healthcare Committee recommended a new model for Medical Plan dues](#) that gives employing organizations the option of sharing a portion of dependent healthcare coverage costs **with members of the Benefits Plan enrolled in the Traditional Program**. (The recommended model does not apply to members enrolled in the Affiliated Benefits Program or Medicare Supplement Plan.) The Board of Directors is scheduled to vote on the recommendation at its March meeting. If approved, the new model would take effect January 1, 2014.

For more information about the recommendation, read [the news article](#) on pensions.org.

Enrollment Reminder for Benefits Plan Coverage for Same-Gender Domestic Partners

As previously announced, a member may enroll a same-gender domestic partner (“qualified domestic partner”) and the partner’s eligible children for coverage under the Benefits Plan, effective January 1, 2013. Members may call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) and speak with a member service representative to request an information packet, which includes forms for and details on adding a qualified domestic partner and children to the plan.

You can submit all required forms and documentation through the end of 2012; however, submit these materials as soon as possible to ensure dependents receive their medical ID cards as close to January 1 as administratively possible.

For more information on required documentation and other matters related to coverage of qualified domestic partners, read the original [news article](#) on pensions.org.

Active Members To Receive New ID Cards

In December, Highmark will send new identification cards to all active members of the Medical Plan. Once you receive your new card, destroy your old card and start using the new one immediately.

Board Bulletin Reports News from October Board of Directors Meeting

The fall 2012 issue of [The Board Bulletin](#) is available on pensions.org. It details key decisions made by the Board of Directors of the Board of Pensions at its October 27 meeting. Highlights include the following:

- The Healthcare Committee presented its recommendation for a new medical dues model, effective January 1, 2014. The Directors will vote on the recommendation at their next Board meeting in March.
- The Directors approved subscription dues increases for the Medical Continuation Program, Medicare Supplement Plan, and optional Dental Plan.
- The Balanced Investment Portfolio returned 11.4 percent for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

The Board of Pensions publishes *The Board Bulletin* after each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Help Those Who Serve the Church through the Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is a long-standing Presbyterian tradition that provides critical support to the [Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions](#) and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic school and colleges. Usually received the Sunday before Christmas, it is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways to support those in need.

The Assistance Program depends on half the Christmas Joy Offering and other gifts to fund its programs. Last year, the Christmas Joy Offering distributed \$1.9 million to the Assistance Program, helping to provide more than 1,250 grants to Presbyterian pastors and church workers in need.

For more information about the Christmas Joy Offering and the Assistance Program, and how your generosity can help support faithful church servants, read [the news article](#) on pensions.org.

Regional Representative Douglas Kelly To Retire; Successor Announced

For more than six years, the Reverend Dr. Douglas Kelly has served as Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions in the Synods of Mid-America, Lakes and Prairies, and Lincoln Trails. After nearly 40 years of serving the Presbyterian Church as a pastor, college chaplain, presbytery executive, synod executive, and Board of Pensions Regional Representative, Doug will retire on November 30, 2012.

The Reverend Dr. Edward Thompson, currently pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida, will be the next Regional Representative of the Synods of Mid-America, Lakes and Prairies, and Lincoln Trails. Prior to his pastorate in Naples, he served as pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. He will begin training for his new role in January 2013, and should be in the field by the beginning of March.

During the vacancy period, plan members in the Synods of Mid-America, Lakes and Prairies, and Lincoln Trails should call the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) to speak with a member service representative regarding service matters. To schedule events or address Church Relations issues, please call the Church Relations office at 800-773-7752, ext. 7287.

Rev. Helen Locklear

Regional Representative

Synod of Mid-Atlantic, Kentucky & Tennessee

Board of Pensions, PC (U.S.A.)

800.773.7752, ext 7047

www.pensions.org